

DIVING

JUN HOONG TO BACK OUT OF GAMES?

World champ has to overcome injury first

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NEWLY crowned world champion Cheong Jun Hoong may not compete in next month's Sea Games in Kuala Lumpur.

National coach Yang Zhuliang revealed that her participation in the biennial event will depend on the condition of her back injury.

Tentatively, Zhuliang has entered Jun Hoong for the women's 1m springboard and 10m platform individual events, where 13 gold medals will be offered in the KL edition.

Jun Hoong etched her name in history books by becoming Malaysia's first ever world champion in diving in Budapest, Hungary on Wednesday.

Despite carrying a back injury, she upset reigning Olympic champion Ren Qian and Si Yajie for the 10m platform individual title.

The Perak-born Jun Hoong and Pan-delela also paired up for the bronze medal in the platform synchro event.

Zhuliang said Jun Hoong's back will be assessed before a decision is made on her events in the Sea Games.

"I am not sure whether Jun Hoong's back is okay now. We do not want her to aggravate the injury," said Zhuliang on Saturday.

"If there is a problem then we may have to limit her events or decide not to enter her for the Sea Games."

For the record, KL2017 will be Jun Hoong's eighth Sea Games outing. The only time she did not win a Sea Games medal was the 2009 Laos edition.

In total, Jun Hoong has won six gold, one silver and three bronze medals in the Sea Games. However, none of her gold medals were from the platform individual event.

Meanwhile, Nur Dhabitah Sabri took 10th place in the women's 3m springboard individual final at the World Championships on Friday.

The 18-year-old posted a 292.35 total in the event won by Rio Olympics champion Shi Tingmao, who posted 383.50 points.

China's Wang Han took silver on 359.40 while Canadian Abel Jennifer finished third with a 351.55 series.

"I am very happy with the progress of Nur Dhabitah. It was her first ever appearance in an individual final in the

world meet.

"Age is on her side and I believe she will develop into a better diver. She has a very good future in the springboard events," Zhuliang added.



Cheong Jun Hoong